

**Reuben M. Whitney to Andrew Jackson, March 25, 1836,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

REUBEN M. WHITNEY TO JACKSON.

Washington, March 25, 1836.

Dear Sir, In my letter to you of yesterday, I stated the *immediate liabilities* of the Agricultural Bank to be 1,618,584 and the *immediate means* to meet the same 222,448 or about 1 of means to 8 of liabilities.

The state of the Planters Bank at a much later date and when the liabilities had increased was as follows,

Bal. due to Banks 298,451

Circulation 2,605,778

Individual Deposits 957,869

Public Deposits 2,761,980

6,624,079 [*sic*]

Means, Gold and Silver 429,715

Notes of other Bks. 368,991

798,706

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or less than 8 to 1.

But it is not a fair statement to make, to include the treasurers deposite as *imm[e]diate liabilities at home* ; because, the Department has issued drafts to be paid at New Orleans for all but about half a million of dollars, and the Bank has Domestic Bills of Exchange now run[n]ing to maturity to the amount of upwards of Six millions of dollars mostly payable in New Orleans to meet the payment of the Treasury Drafts. Therefore take the same items in the Planters Bank that I do in the Agricultural Bank, the former has 1 to 5 and the latter 1 to 8.

Independent of all this, I wish now to place the Planters Bank in its true light before you. Great injustice has been done that Bank, and not only to that Bank but to the State of Mississippi by the doubts which have been suggested as to the safety of the Public money deposited in it. It is the safest Bank which we have among the whole of the Deposit Banks. Not only that, but it is the only one which is established upon the true and proper principles. I give you the proofs. The following is the second section of the act incorporating the Planters Bank,

“ *And be it further enacted* , that the faith of the State of Mississippi is hereby pledged to make good all losses which may accrue from deficiency of the funds of said bank, or by other means, in proportion to the amount of Stock which the State shall possess therein; and that each and every stockholder shall, in his private and natural capacity, be held liable to each and every person who shall suffer damage or loss by means aforesaid, to make good said loss or damage in a ratio proportioned to the amount of stock he, she, or they, shall hold in said bank.”

The capital stock of the Bank is Four millions of dollars. The state owns three millions and Individuals one million of dollars. There are thirteen Directors; seven of whom are chosen annually by the Stock-holders; and six appointed “ *biennially by the Governour of the State of Mississippi by and with the advice and consent of the Senate* .”

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I cannot but say that I think it unwise and impolitic to appoint another Bank in Mississippi in which the State has no interest; the stock of which to the extent of one third is owned by the supporters of the United States Bank in Philadelphia; when you have a Bank, three fourths the property of the State; the State in that proportion pledged for the safety of the debts of the Bank, and the individual stockholders liable in their individual character for the other fourth of the debts. I feel, that I am but discharging my duty, to resist by every fair means, the appointment of the Agricultural Bank. Its condition is such as to lead to attacks which cannot be defended against. This is the first time I have been able to plaice the Planters Bank before you in its true light.

Very Respectfully